

Cumbræ Community Council

Meeting Minutes Thursday 14 February 2019, Garrison House

Present: Lisa Christie, Crawford Gillan, Sharon Hagan, Phil Lonsdale (chair), Angie McCallum, Graham Wallace

In Attendance: Cllr. Tom Marshall, PC Michael Emans, Lesley Stringer (minutes), 4 members of the public

Apologies: Alex Caldwell, Cllr. Alan Hill, Cllr. Ian Murdoch

Minutes of the last meeting: The minutes of the last meeting, held on 10 January 2019 were proposed by Graham Wallace and seconded by Sharon Hagan as a true record.

Matters arising from previous minutes

1. Flooding/drainage issues. Problems at Kelburn, Glasgow, Stuart, College and Kames Streets were reported by residents as well as by CCC via the online app and directly to NAC. The gully cleaner has now been on site for 3 days clearing drains, including those at Balloch Crescent, which should resolve flooding at some of the sites. Work at Glasgow Street to raise the pavement and improve water flow to the drains is planned by NAC Roads Department.

2. Dog fouling on pavements. This is particularly bad between the Newton Bar and the pier. A letter to NAC raising the issue has received the response that council enforcement officers will visit soon and that the public should report, especially when dog owners can be identified, so that follow up action can be taken.

3. Mud on highway. CCC received letters of complaint about mud on the inner circle road, especially the area near the curling pond and has followed up with NAC. The case has been closed by NAC following issue of a letter to the landowner; they will follow up further if it is not resolved.

4. Overgrown shrubbery at Marine Parade. There has been no response by NAC as yet to this complaint, regarding the area between Ravenscraig and Marine Parade. The case remains open pending action by NAC.

5. Seal carcasses. NAC are responsible for dealing with seal carcasses due to the potential public health risk. They have advised reporting to the local council office or cleansing department, however the online reporting app may be the best approach as a rapid acknowledgement and case reference are generated.

6. Seafront benches. In the past these were removed or secured for the winter, but this is unlikely to be the case now due to limited council resources.

7. Town Hall update. The feasibility study is under way. Detailed building, electrical, engineering, timber, damp and roof surveys have been undertaken and a valuation has been organised. Consultations with island groups and individuals are being held and an interim report has just been made to the Steering Group. An open community meeting has been arranged in the DA Hall on Saturday 30th March 11am-1pm when the final results of the feasibility study will be shared and discussed. It's hoped there will be a display in the Garrison foyer the week before the community meeting. A fundraiser will take place in the DA Hall on Saturday 9th March.

8. SSEN cable update. The increased flooding of the Fintry road where the cable works were carried out has been reported to NAC, backed up with photographs of the affected area. Some of the field drains appear broken, and there are several large potholes in the area. NAC Roads Department have examined the potholes and will follow up repair of these by the SSEN contractor. They don't recognise that there has been an increase in flooding in the area caused by the utility works but will investigate to resolve. In the absence of a budget to undertake remedial kerbing work to the newly surfaced footpath, CCC will liaise with SSEN to at least ensure ballast/infill is used to support the tar edges of the pavement to prevent it collapsing. Retaining the area of hard standing used by the contractor would also be useful.

ACTION: GW to follow up

9. Road at ferry slip. Stewart Walker of NAC was approached in response to community complaints about the poor condition of the road at the ramp and ferry queue. He has replied that the ramp area is the responsibility of CalMac and that there will be no action by NAC on the approach road pending results of a survey to consider proposals for changes to ferry parking on Cumbrae and in Largs.

ACTION: GW to follow up condition of ramp with CalMac.

10. Ferry Road footpath. This is now much improved and a letter of thanks has been sent to NAC.

11. Roadside hedges & bushes at Fintry/White Bay. Work at White Bay is now complete, NAC is currently pursuing works at Fintry Bay with the landowner.

12. Peel Ports oil rig decommissioning. There is a meeting at Largs Academy organised by Friends of the Firth of Clyde on 21/02 to update the local community on their activities and findings and including a representative from SEPA. No action has been taken by Peel Ports as yet on works to the caisson gates.

Brief reports of outside meetings attended

Marina Group/Coastal Flood Protection Scheme (FPS). The decision from NAC's cabinet meeting has been to pursue FPS Option 2 – offshore breakwaters and onshore sea wall defences. The option doesn't include demolition of the pier but neither does it include any repairs to the pier. Scottish Government has approved grant funding of 80% for the scheme. A proposal to use funding from the Ayrshire Growth Deal for marine tourism to develop a community-run marina in the shelter of

the breakwater is being developed by the Council's Tourism and Coastal Economy officers in collaboration with Millport Pier and Harbour Users Group. A consultation event to gather community views on the FPS and proposed marina development on 12th & 13th February was well attended, and written feedback on both projects can be made online or via questionnaires available at the library until 07 March. The FPS doesn't include funding for work to the timber pier, but discussions are on-going with NAC on temporary repairs to enable the pier to be used in the meantime.

The new Community Marine Officer for Crown Estate Scotland officer is John Kent, who is based in Largs. It would be useful to have him give a presentation to CCC on current marine leisure issues.

ACTION: GW to arrange presentation for a future CCC meeting.

Making Waves in Scottish Tourism. This event launched 'The Coig', which promotes five tourist trails in North Ayrshire (Cumbrae is number 5), supported by a £300,000 commercial investment. Isle of Cumbrae Tourist Association intend to approach Kathleen Don, NAC's Economic Development Officer for the Coig, to give more details at their next meeting.

Cumbrae Community Facilities Meeting. A number of meetings have taken place between CCC, CCDC & Friends of the Town Hall (among others) to bring together groups with different interests but the same aims to discuss the way forward, using a collaborative approach to secure the best possible community facilities for the island. NAC have welcomed the approach and will make a business development manager available to the group to support funding initiatives. The next meeting has been arranged for 26/02.

Facebook for Business. Training in using Facebook for business promotion was organised locally by Business Gateway. Although the course was aimed at business users, there were some useful insights for community groups in relation to maximising and monitoring communication reach. Course material has been circulated to other councillors.

Isle of Cumbrae Tourist Association. The Millport Country Music Festival group gave an update on plans for the 2019 festival, improvements to their webpage and the estimated £558,000 boost to the local economy from last year's event.

Agenda Items

- 1. Police report.** There was little to report, other than that PC Emans has been monitoring the problem with dog fouling. He confirmed he is happy to approach perpetrators if he receives reports. As this was his last CCC meeting before leaving the post, he thanked CCC for their support and recognised the closeness of the Cumbrae community, and the support he has received from the community in his role. There have been no applicants as yet for his post.

CCC in turn thanked PC Emans for his service to Millport and wished him a happy retirement.

2. **Planning matters.** The Dawn Fresh company has submitted a scoping request to NAC for 3 trout farms, although this is not yet open for consultation. The company supports the pier campaign as it intends to base onshore services on Cumbrae with the creation of 4 jobs. Concerns have been expressed about the impact of the fish farms on the environment, particularly on marine mammals from use of acoustic deterrent devices. It was noted that NAC can impose conditions on the operating licence to protect wildlife. Dawn Fresh will attend the next CCC meeting to discuss the plans.
3. **CCC Twitter account.** This is now operational, and already is following and being followed by many other Community Councils, NAC senior leadership team members, National Groups and members of the public. One 'group' who cropped up in a discussion thread was NAFCO (the North Ayrshire Federation of Community Organisations). The group state that "At a time of funding cuts we believe there is a need for a wide based Federation for community groups who can speak up for them. This a group which was previously unknown to CCC or, it would appear at the time of the meeting, to any other Cumbrae community organisations. It would appear that there was a North Ayrshire wide event in late 2016 where an Agreed Community Contract was unfurled. Invites were apparently sent out to all Community Associations by North Ayrshire Council. CG would look further into this and The Community Contract and their relevance to Cumbrae and report to the next meeting
4. **Community Council Vacancy.** Lisa Christie was warmly welcomed as the new community councillor following her application for the advertised vacancy.
5. **Public toilets.** Questions have been raised to CCC by community members regarding the published running costs for the public toilets (£550/toilet/month) and the fate of the £70,000 capital sum provided to CCDC to build a new toilet block. There followed some discussion, including about the temporary suspension of crowdfunding facilities on the fundraising site cumbraecludgies.com. The questions raised will be referred to CCDC.

Presentations

Kirstin Paterson will attend the next CCC meeting to discuss the Xmas lights.

AOCB

The issue of the need for more vermin control around the pier was raised from the floor. There has been an increase in sightings of rats in the area, with some having been seen in the overflowing refuse bins. Environmental Health has been involved, and has confirmed evidence of rat infestation in properties in Cardiff Street and Stuart Street.

ACTION: Cllr Marshall will raise the issue with NAC, and look into providing larger secure bins for the Pierhead, Kames Bay and West Bay areas.

The Millport Heritage Cycle, a family day out including a Cumbrae heritage trail, bike festival, vintage bicycle show, is being supported by the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) funding. A date has not yet been set for the event.

Phil Lonsdale, Chair of CCC, announced that he was stepping down from the Council with immediate effect. Vice-chair Graham Wallace and Cllr Tom Marshall thanked Phil for his service, for the experience and local knowledge he has shared for community benefit and for the stability he has brought to CCC.

Date of next meeting: 5pm Thursday 14th March 2019, at Garrison House, Millport